Introduction of four zonal offices

4087. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS.PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways plan to introduce four zonal offices to improve coordination between functioning of a cluster of railway divisions and the Railway Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the details of such zonal offices that would serve the ECoR and how far would this help to improve its efficiency both in the passenger and freight movement on this railway system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Special status to trains

4088. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some trains, including the Samjhauta Express, are accorded special status;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the features signifying special status;

(c) whether lives of several passengers on board the Samjhauta Express on 18th February, 2007, killed due to the fire following bomb blasts, could be saved had the coaches been fire-retardant;

(d) whether Government had years ago decided to introduce fire-retardant coaches as passengers' safety measures;

(e) if so, the details thereof indicating current status of the said decision;

(f) whether the affected coaches had any kind of fire-retardant features;